



**FEAST OF THE ISLANDS . . .** Making plans to entertain at the next authentic luau at The Polynesian Restaurant in Torrance, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 22, are Tani Marsh, Nalani Kele and Sunbeam Beamer. Island pageantry will highlight the exotic festival, "Feast of the Islands."

## College Production of 'South Pacific' So Good 'It Hurts'

(Ed. Note: The El Camino College production of "South Pacific" was reviewed for the HERALD by Dick Miller, long-time Torrance resident, real estate man, and amateur thespian.)

It hurts because there are only three performances left. Last Thursday evening, opening night excitement filled the air at El Camino College's Campus Theater and it mounted as the orchestra, under the direction of Robert Hoag, play the overture.

So many college musicals are penalized by the pitmen, but at El Camino, such was not the case. They were great.

WHEN THE curtain went up to reveal the set, I just knew the show would be outstanding, and the rest of the audience knew it, too, for they stopped the show for a full three minutes to express their appreciation to Les Thomas and his crew for their breath-taking scenes.

Then Bang! The Rodgers and Hammerstein opus took off like a jet and never at any time did it slow down other than by the insistence of the first nighters' applause. I almost hate to start discussing the case because they were all so good and it will be very repetitious, but here goes:

ENSIGN NELLIE Forbush is played by the girl who, by her own admission, could not and never had sung a note. Now, that would be a tough job filling a role made famous by Mary Martin, especially for one who couldn't sing. Please let me assure Barbara D'Agosta, who plays Nellie that she can sing, and that she did a great job.

LYLE HECK handled the

Emile DeBeque characterization and song with professional ease, and also was wonderful. Bloody Mary was portrayed by Patti Hayes with a sparkle that I'm sure still glitters on the empty stage. I'm not going to mention the rest of the cast because I've just realized I enjoyed everyone, as you can easily see.

I'M NO CRITIC, but I do want to tell one and all that this guy Burnett Ferguson, who produced and directed the show, is without any reservation the best director that any college campus can boast of. The spark this man can bring out of his casts without being hated is unbelievable. Don't miss anything this man directs, because it will be tops.

THIS SHOW runs only one one more week end—Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 12, 13, and 14.

On the way home, my daughter giggled when I tried the high notes of "Some Enchanted Evening." I made the mistake of asking her why. Her reply went something like this: ". . . and you were going to try out for Emile De Beque. I'm glad you didn't—you're too short, too fat, and you can't sing."

I hate kids.—Dick Miller.

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# Where to Go... What to Do...

## Overflow Crowd At Symphony Orchestra's Annual May Festival

An overflow crowd, many of whom stood throughout the first half of the program at Redondo Union High School last Saturday night, demonstrated that, in their opinion, Torrance and the South Bay can add two more "Firsts" to their long list of triumphs. First, the possession of the finest civic symphony and, second, the youngest young pianist to be heard with a symphony in the Los Angeles area.

The Civic Symphony, under the inspired leadership of conductor Elyse Aehle, has grown in 16 years from a struggling amateur group into a well-balanced professional grade orchestra which gave a most satisfying reading of Beethoven's first symphony. Under her flashing baton all the contrasting vitality and tenderness of the great composer came to life.

THE DIFFICULT "scherzo," which even the greatest orchestras approach with trepidation, was played at brilliant speed with perfect accuracy. The second violins deserve especial credit for their handling of the demanding part which Beethoven unexpectedly put in their hands. Second violins rarely are given such an important part. In the Fingal's Cave Overture by Mendelssohn the wood-winds came into their own, the clarinet solo was well-played by first-clarinetist, Sylvia Romm.

LITTLE JIMMY Howard, who seemed dwarfed by the concert grand piano, soon showed he was master of the big instrument, playing with surprising power and understanding. Here is a young fellow who has his feet firmly placed on the road to success. He also demonstrated the excellent training of Mrs. Josephine Heitz Geritz to whose arms he rushed as soon as he had finished Haydn's concerto, asking, "Was it alright?"

The audience answered this question in the affirmative with long enthusiastic applause which demanded an encore. For this he chose "Gollywog's Cakewalk." It was charming and fitting to see this number, which Debussy wrote for the amusement of his own little daughter, through the wide-eyed vision of a child.

FOLLOWING the intermission came more "Firsts." The first showing after the Hollywood premier of Wilson Morelli's "El Armor Brujo" (Love by Witchcraft) music by Manuel de Falla. Morelli himself danced the leading role.

Both his choreography and

his Spanish-gypsy and classical dancing merit the highest praise. Renne Dunia created the weird role of the witch with fire and sure technique and Toni Ebell danced the part of the "Young Maiden" with appeal and finesse. The mimeing of Bob Bruce as the fortune teller was excellent.

PATSY NORMAN, who has been a featured dancer in many May Festivals of the Civic Symphony, and who graduated from R.U.H.S., was received with open arms by the audience who showed pride in the local girl who has become a famous dancer. Her brilliant finished style made her worthy of their esteem.

JOHN FRAYER, also internationally known, recently returned from a season with the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas, gave her pure, classical support yet with a flashing display of his own surpassing ability. Karen Shanley danced the prelude to Les Sylphides with lyric feeling and the Allegro and Adagio from Ballet Rose were danced with charming grace by Toni Rene, Lynn Fields, Sharon Crawford, Pat Lewis and Nella Lugwig.

The whole company showed their versatility by a complete change of pace in the jazzy mood of the Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, which closed what this reviewer believes was the climax of a magnificent season of outstanding treats, including the premier of "The Blue Madonna," with Ruth St. Denis and the opera "Faust," which have all been presented to this community by the Civic Symphony of Torrance and the South Bay.

VERA AVERY.

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Another combo that is attracting a following here is the Al Apodaca Trio which plays each Friday and Saturday night at Jack's, where host Jack Dabbs greets his friends. Norvell Randle is at the piano

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The Ladies Auxiliary of San Pedro Barracks No. 431 of the Veterans of World War I, will hold their annual pancake breakfast Sunday, May 15, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1121 Caffey St., San Pedro. Mrs. Thelma Johnson, president of the auxiliary, and Oscar Johnson, commander of the Barracks, will be official hosts.

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## Footlight Theater To Present 'Night Must Fall' Nex Month

Three performances of "Night Must Fall," the psychological thriller from the pen of Emyln Williams, will be staged by the Footlight Theater in June at the city plunge. It was reported yesterday.

Production of the drama is being directed by Herman Goodman and will have Jack Conrad in the lead.

In his role as "Dan" Conrad portrays a psychopath with homicidal tendencies living in a dream world of his own making, Goodman reports.

His status is forced on him by a world he cannot understand, and he will go to all ends, even murder, to become

a recognized personality in the world which is rejecting him. Portraying the hateful, domineering, hypochondriac whose murder would be welcomed by most of the audience as the play develops will be Pat Merrill.

The June production, which will be staged at 8:30 p.m. on June 3, 4, and 5 at the plunge, is the second this year for the theater group, organized last fall under the sponsorship of the Torrance Recreation Department.

Tickets will be sold for \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for children.

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